Mrs. A. E. Austin
Sitka, Alaska
1881, March 5.

Sitka Alaska
March 5th 1881

My dear Mrs Haines

My daughter Linda has so many letters to answer this month. that I will give her some assistance, I know it will rejoice your hearts to hear of the work so greatly prospering in Sitka. Captain Beardsley's successor Captain Glass, has become greatly interested in the work here, and is doing much to help us in the progress of our School he has had the Ranche rented and cleaned giving time for the Indians to white wash the outside of their dwellings and it has made a great change in the appearance of them homes the houses are numbered and a census has been taken of the children and they are numbered according to their several homes. each child is required to be present at School every day and unless the head of the house

wrote. Br. Annie
wrote you again
I have written us
great deeds."
my love to you
Charlie & Ida
Brand
Yours truly
Mrs S. E. Austin

com give a satisfactory reason for the absence of the child he is fined a pair of blankets and a day in the guard house for every absent child the Captain thought it would be well to be strict until it could be impressed upon the parents the necisity of their regular attendance, the fine in blankets are ordered and the money is to be used as a hospital fund for the Sick Indians, I believe they have had no occasion to fine any one for several days. the Parents come many times with their children to the School. one very old grey haired man came and he seemed to delighted with the teaching of the children he smiled and nodded his approval it is greatly encouraging to have the parents interested we have a Sewing School on Friday afternoon of each week and the Mothers are invited but each week we commence trying to teach them to knit we hope to be able to open a room especialy for the Mothers that we may teach them industry. There is a marked improvement in the appearance

of the children. they are anxious to have clean faces and hands if we had the means it would be well to procure the services of one or two of the older girls to assist in the washing of the children (the youngest ones) and combing their hair but we trust we shall be able to arrange this soon. some of the children we could call very pretty. I long to take them all and care for them in a good comfortable home they are very dear to my heart they have been so neglected and are so grateful for the kindness shown to them. I wish we could send to you a picture of their bright eager faces while they are being taught. we give them objects lessons which they delight in I can truly say I have never met in my experience with Missions Scholars in the East more active and intelligent children there is a great pleasure and satisfaction in teaching those who crave so for knowledge we have a very few in our own family who will drop all he is doing whether work or play to read in his book. if we offer to help him

I feel that God has opened the way for a great and glorious work here. we are greatly encouraged by the kind response to our call for clothing but much more is needed what we trust our Heavenly Father will open the hearts of his children to continue to respond to the call for help for our Sitka Mission. we need wood and it is necessary to get it during the warm weather as it is more expensive to buy in Winter, there are many other necessary articles which are need in our School. I will send to you the names of the children and my report also the texts The army is greatly needed for our School It has not been completed at time of glass is needed for the windows and the wood has been sawn we have not used the Bible Readers we have some to use, we can procure the books & slates else here if we have the means. we shall be very glad of seeds we have a much better place this year than last for garden and a very nice place for flowers. Russia turnips cabbage, radish, lettuce, turnip radish are the best. cauliflower, peas, a pea that does not require brush as the winds are very severe and they are blown down. We expect the Steamer in two

Mrs. A. E. Austin,
Sitka Alaska,
1881 – March 5.

Mrs A.E. Austin
application
Sitka –

Sitka Alaska
March 5th 1881

My dear Mrs Haines

My daughter wished me to write to you about her having an assistant. Her sister is engaged in teaching in the Russian School and is doing a good work and thinks best not to make a change. She wished me to apply for the position. upon thinking the subject over she concluded it would be better to have an older person with her. as the work has increased and many adults attend. I have been engaged the greater part of my life in Mission work in the City and would feel it a great [illegible] as well as a blessed privelige to be permitted to work among the people here.. I can furnish you the necessary requirements asked for in your letter to my daughter. Yours sincerely Mrs [illegible] Austin.

Mrs. A. E. Austin
Sitka, Alaska,
1881, April 4.

Mrs. Austin -
Eastchester N. Y.
April 4/81

Mrs E. J. Kaines
Dear Madam

In reply to your note concerning Mrs Austin, would say, my confidence in her ability and character is so strong, that if she has applied for the position as Matron I should not hesitate to give it to her

Yours truly
E. Trott

Sitka, Alaska Ter.
May 8, 1881.

This is to certify that I have examined and found Isabella J. Austin, physically qualified for the position of Teacher.

D. O. Lewis,
Passed Assistant Surgeon,
U. S. Navy.

is a man whom we are very much interested in he comes regularly to the day school and always attends our evening prayers with the boys. he was once a rich Chief. the story is this. the Indians got into some trouble on account of drink. and tried to get this Chief to tell a falsehood saying a white man sold the liquor to them. but he would not consent to do it and so his honors were taken from him. I believe he is a christian he gives every evidence of it in his daily life. we also feel we are gaining influence among the people in many ways their friends die they come to Mr Austin to ask if it is his wish that they shall bury instead of burn their remains in no instance as yet have we had to urge their burying instead of burning they say we have a Missionary and he cares for

Please give to the Indian Committee

Mrs. Austin
Sitka
Alaska
and 12.24/81

Sitka Alaska
Nov 14th 1881

My dear Mrs Haines

I wish I might sit with you and have a nice long talk about our home and its inmates and tell you how the boys look how they seem and of the progress they have made in their studies. Our baby as we call him is I think about seven years of age. we think him a beautiful boy. he has a well shaped head large black eyes and round face. his father is a white man I have heard. this little fellow was left here by his brother who has gone to the mines. she is a very bad

character and our baby was
left to take care of himself
as best he could getting food
anywhere he might chance to
find it. his face was a great
attraction to every one and
some of the people became
greatly interested in him and
urged our taking him into our
fold. they promising to clothe
him. he was almost naked.
when he was brought to us. but
blankets were furnished him
and a dress suit also clothing
for every day wear. he was
washed and combed and
dressed. and a happy little
fellow he was indeed.
We have three other little boys
in the home all about the same
size we call them triplets
they are bright promising little
ones. If I could only present
a picture of our home boys
to the kind friends in the
East I am very sure we should
not lack for want of shoes
and clothing to keep them
warm. most of the donations
we have had in clothing have
been for girls. and we are
greatly in need of underclothing
and in fact all kinds of wearing apparel
for boys. I believe in time we
shall be supplied. for our wants
have been made known in San
Francisco. by Capt Glass & wife and
we feel sure we shall receive
help from that source in the
future. but just now we are in
great need & we are greatly encour
aged in our work. the Indians
manifest a great interest in the
meetings held for them. There

1881 – Mrs. A. E. Austin
Sitka, Alaska,

Mrs. Austin

Sitka, Alaska
Aug 7, 1881

Dear Mrs Haines: –

Have been quite ill for the past two weeks, but am feeling better now. Did not write you fully last month as our friends volunteered their services. In your last letter, you spoke of my daughters not writing. In yours of late, there is a slight misunderstanding in regards to this, we have two letters from you in which you speak to her of writing too much, and in a letter to me, you say you must forbid her writing so much, she does new or answer to awaken, and

keep up the interest of the people
in her work, and that felt she
could do it in this way; we
talked with Dr. Jackson, in re-
gard to this and he said, it
was outside writing that you
must have alluded to, but that
you wished her to write to you.
Every month. Now, my dear Miss.
Hamer, we were greatly pained
at the thought of your suffering
in reference to the matter, which
has saddened the hearts of
us all; my husband and I have
endeavored to be faithful in
watching and caring for our
dear child, who has given her
services to the Lord, to come la-
bor with these poor neglect-
ed people; we have all tried
to be consistent and, conscientious
in all things, we have visited
the officers of the Sanctorum to

and would often talk to us about them, and their words + little messages, hand her ~~hold~~ ~~table~~ during to us; his wife's request, or by leaving him was that he should seek society of good families, if there were any. he belonged to a christian family, and we believe that he would love to be one of the household of God + we hope + trust he may accept him, as his Savior. He has been often to spend the evening with the family, he has been out to walk with him and with two exceptions, in company with three or four other persons. We are fully convinced that this is a plot to injure the character

come to our hopes, hoping the influ-
ence of a christian family might
help them, in this isolated place,
with nothing to amuse them,
than keeping them from bar &
billiard room. Why Austin had
had some of the officers come
to him, to ask his prayers for
them, that they might be kept
from the temptations, which beset
them, and that they might be
brought to the Saving, & felt en-
couraged in our work among
them, they have manifested a
a great earnestness, in our
meetings, held in our American
church; we trust and pray
that the seed sown may yet
spring up and bear rich fruit,
for the Master. God, who is the
searcher of all hearts, knows
our motives. Bro. Brown has a
wife and three lovely children,

associated but little with
most of the people, we were
prejudiced by things two people
May God forgive them, for the
wrong done to us. We had not
the slightest intimation of the
plot laid until we were informed
by friends, who felt it their
Christian duty to tell us we
have passed through the fiery
furnace but have kept hold
of the Master's hand, and he
has put a new song in our
mouths; although these trials
have been crushing in their
weight yet we feel it is
good, that we have been
afflicted, for it has brought
us very near to the Master.
may His holy name be glor-
ified and honored & we, His
weak stewardess go forward in
the glorious work, and strive
to labor to bring the lost
ones into the fold. We are
greatly encouraged, in our new
work in the Boys home. they
are very dear to our hearts &
we feel pleased, by the
gratification expressed by strang-
ers who have visited the Home.
Hope we shall hear often from
you, as your letters are al-
ways welcome. My daughter will
take her vacation, as she is
greatly in need & I suspect
rest. she has felt these
trials most keenly, and her
health has suffered in conse-
quence. I must say again we
were so glad to have Dr. Jacks-
son with us, we wanted him
to see the work, which has
been accomplished, and also his
advice in regard to future work

she has encouraged and inspired us, with new vigor, in ~~our work.~~ We hope he may be sent to us every year.

Very sincerely yours,

P. J. Austin

of one of Christ's chosen ones for such. I believe my child to be, she has been unceasingly at the mercy seat, and has child like and sweet communion with her Master. For many months she has excluded herself from all society. We welcomed Dr. Jackson with great delight & felt that he had been sent to us, by the Lord. we were glad to have him thoroughly investigate all that concerned us, in this matter, and judge for himself, whether we have been in the right or wrong. We can trace this scandal to two persons, whom we feel influenced Mrs. Lyons & wife in regard to it as Mr Lyons

Nulato Alaska
April 5th 1882

"We were greatly interested in one young girl, who lately died. We believe she lived as nearly right as she knew how. She asked that she might have L. to sit up with her the last night of her life. She did what she could to help her people. I wish others of her Nation would follow her example. We are often called upon to help bury their dead. The priest does very little for his charge either spiritually or temporally. The funeral services seem such a mockery to me. One of the distressing scenes I witnessed was a pass-port to Heaven, which the priest brought out and read aloud to the audience. After the reading it was placed in the hand of the deceased to be handed on her arrival at the entrance of the Heavenly gate, a recommendation from the priest of the God.

It makes me shudder at the thought of having our poor Indian people in any way brought in contact with such influence. But they are discerning and study the character of a man, ~~[illegible]~~ and well know the life he leads and seem disgusted with it.

The priest will put on his Church robe and go to the gambling table, and from there to the death-bed to administer to the dying."

Mrs Austin

Ltr from P.H. Mrs
Mrs. A.E. Austin
Sitka, Alaska
describes a funeral
1882.